

## **FACT SHEET**

### **PROPOSED RULE TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR POLLUTANT EMISSIONS FROM PLASTIC PARTS AND PRODUCTS SURFACE COATING FACILITIES**

#### **TODAY'S ACTION**

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing a rule to reduce toxic air pollutant emissions from surface coating of plastic parts and products. Today's proposed rule is expected to affect about 202 existing facilities. Toxic air pollutants, also known as air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health and environmental problems.
- ! The surface coating of plastic parts and products is a process of applying a protective, decorative, or functional coating to a plastic substrate. Coating materials include, but are not limited to, paints, stains, sealers, topcoats, basecoats, primers, inks, and adhesives.
- ! The coating-related operations covered by the proposed rule are divided into four subcategories:
  - assembled on-road vehicle;
  - general use;
  - thermoplastic olefin; and
  - headlamp.
- ! The toxic air pollutants emitted during the surface coating application process, drying/curing operations, mixing and/or thinning operations, and cleaning operations include xylene, toluene, glycol ethers including ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, methyl ethyl ketone, and methyl isobutyl ketone.
- ! Today's proposal would set emissions limits for all plastic parts and products surface coating operations that use more than 378 liters (100 gallons) of coatings per year in the surface coating of plastic parts and products and are located at a "major" source of air toxics under the Clean Air Act. A major source is one that has the potential to emit 10 or more tons per year of a single air toxic, or 25 tons or more per year of a combination of toxics.
- ! The emission limits proposed today give the industry choices and flexibility in reducing air toxic emissions. These compliance options are:
  - (1) Use coatings and other materials that have been reformulated to reduce the air toxics content.
  - (2) Upgrade or install new capture-and-control systems to reduce organic air toxic emissions.
  - (3) Use any combination of (1) and (2) above.

- ! Facilities must also meet certain recordkeeping and reporting requirements, including semiannual compliance reports.
- ! EPA worked with industry representatives, States (including regulators, enforcement personnel, and small business advocates), and trade associations to develop this proposal.
- ! EPA will take public comment on the proposed rule for 60 days following publication in the Federal Register. The Agency expects to finalize the rule within 1 year after proposal.

## **BACKGROUND**

- ! Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. For listed categories of "major" sources, the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution reduction measures known as maximum achievable control technology.
- ! EPA's published list of industry groups to be regulated (known as source categories) includes plastic parts and products surface coating operations.

## **BENEFITS AND COST**

- ! Today's action would reduce total air toxic emissions by 7,560 tons per year. This represents emission reductions of approximately 80 percent over estimated 1997 emission levels.
- ! Other potential benefits of this action include a decrease in emissions of other pollutants, such as volatile organic compounds. These compounds contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone (smog) which can aggravate a number of respiratory diseases, including asthma.
- ! EPA expects implementation of the rule as proposed to result in national costs of about \$10.7 million per year for the entire industry. These costs take into account the implementation of pollution prevention activities, such as reformulating coatings. They also include monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting costs (approximately \$4.8 million).

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO COMMENT**

- ! To download the standard from EPA's website on the Internet, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html>.
- ! The notice and technical support document are also available through the EPA's Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (Docket Number A-99-12) by calling (202) 566-1742 or fax (202) 566-1741 (a reasonable fee may be charged for copying).

- ! Written comments on the proposed rule should be submitted (in duplicate) to: Environmental Protection Agency, Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102T), Attention Docket Number A-99-12, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460. Please also send a separate copy to Ms. Kim R. Teal, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Emission Standards Division, Coatings and Consumer Products Group (C539-03), Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711; facsimile number (919) 541-5689; electronic mail address teal.kim@epa.gov.
- ! If you are submitting proprietary information, you must clearly distinguish it from other comments and clearly label it confidential. To ensure proprietary information is not released or inadvertently placed in the public docket, send such information directly to Ms. Kim R. Teal, c/o Document Control Officer (C404-02), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711.
- ! For general information about the proposed standards, contact Ms. Kim Teal of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Coatings and Consumer Products Group at (919) 541-5580, or by electronic mail at teal.kim@epa.gov. Or visit the plastic parts and products (surface coating) website at [http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/coat/plastic/plas\\_parts.html](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/coat/plastic/plas_parts.html).
- ! The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's (OAR) homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program and many other air pollution programs and issues. The OAR's home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.